

IN THE CLAIMS:

What we claim is:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically ~~synthesized~~ modified double stranded short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule ~~that directs cleavage of a huntingtin (HD) RNA comprising SEQ ID NO:3578 via RNA interference~~ comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand, wherein:
 - a. each strand of said siRNA molecule is about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length;
 - b. ~~one the antisense~~ strand of said siRNA molecule comprises about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that are complementary nucleotide sequence having sufficient complementarity to said huntingtin (HD) HD RNA corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 3582; for the siRNA molecule to direct cleavage of the HD RNA via RNA interference; and
 - c. the antisense strand is complementary to the sense strand;
 - d. the sense strand of the siRNA molecule comprises a portion of the HD RNA nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
 - e. between about 50 percent and about 100 percent of the nucleotide positions in one or both strands of the siRNA molecule are chemically modified and any purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides
 - d. ~~one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of said siRNA molecule is a 2'-deoxy 2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotide.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim [[6]] 1, wherein pyrimidine nucleotides in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim [[6]] 1, wherein purine nucleotides in the sense ~~region~~ are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the ~~fragment comprising said~~ sense ~~region~~ strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends ~~of the fragment comprising said sense region~~.
17. (Previously Presented) The siRNA molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the pyrimidine nucleotides of said antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the purine nucleotides present in said antisense ~~region~~ strand comprise 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The siRNA molecule of claim [[18]] 1, wherein said antisense ~~region~~ strand comprises a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense ~~region~~ strand.

22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. ((Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim 1 in an acceptable carrier or diluent.